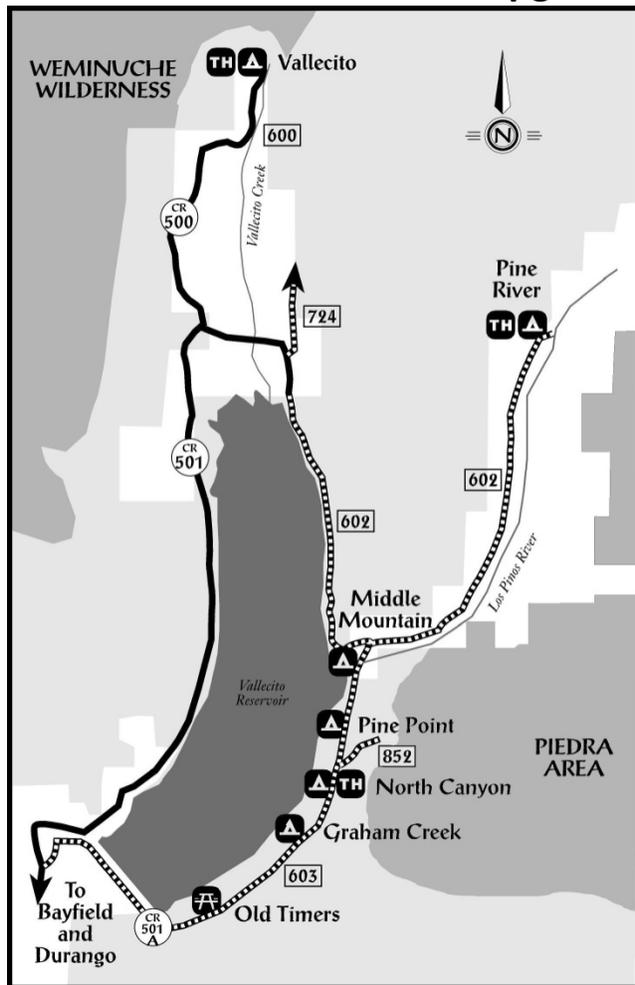


Columbine Public Lands Campgrounds



VALLECITO RESERVOIR

(North of Bayfield)

Vallecito Reservoir is a large reservoir, which dams Vallecito Creek and the Pine River, both with headwaters in the Weminuche Wilderness. Vallecito is 15 miles north of Bayfield on County Road 501 (Forest Rd. 600). There are 6 USFS campgrounds and 1 day-use area available in the area. The full-service community of Vallecito is along the west side of the reservoir; the east side is mostly undeveloped.

Motorized boating is allowed, and access to the water requires a local permit. Boats and equipment rentals are available at private marinas. Fishing is good in the reservoir and streams that feed it. Fishing licenses and supplies are sold at local stores. From campgrounds, you can take short walks to scenic overlooks or long treks into the Weminuche Wilderness (only foot and stock travel are allowed in Wilderness). USFS campgrounds in this area have no electric or sewer hookups, but nearby commercial campgrounds offer full hookups. The community also has laundromats, showers, restaurants, grocery stores, lodges, and sanitary dumping stations.

- **OLD TIMERS DAY-USE AREA** \$ P Z * Ñ

Old Timers Day-Use Area, on the east shore of Vallecito Reservoir, is 1.5 miles north of the dam on County Rd. 501A (Forest Rd. 603). Ten shaded picnic sites are on a gentle hillside near the water, with an adjacent gravel boat ramp. This is a very popular area for boating and fishing. The picnic area and boat launch are open daily from 6 a.m. to 10 p.m. (the gate is locked at night).

- **GRAHAM CREEK CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z * Ñ

About 2 miles farther north on Forest Rd. 603 is the Graham Creek Campground, with 25 sites and a rough, natural-surface boat ramp. Some campsites are shaded; others are more open. Hillside sites are about 100 yards from the high-water line. Sites are available for larger RVs. Private property adjoins the south side of the campground – do not trespass.

- **NORTH CANYON CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z * t

North Canyon Campground, open only during peak summer season, is 1/2 mile north of Graham Creek Campground on the east side of the reservoir on Forest Rd. 603. Among the 21 sites are several suitable for larger sized RVs. North Canyon Trail just across the road travels uphill with scenic vistas of the

reservoir. East Creek Trail is reached by driving about 1/4 mile up Forest Rd. 852, just northeast of the campground entrance. Both trails are popular with horseback riders. (Horses are not allowed in the campground.)

• **PINE POINT CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z *

Pine Point Campground is 1/2 mile north of North Canyon Campground on the east side of the reservoir on Forest Rd. 603 midway up the lakeshore. It has views of high peaks to the northwest. Its 30 shady sites include several pull-thru and larger sites for trailers and RVs. Some are near water, but the area is not well protected for mooring boats. A sheltered area for boats and an open play area are just south. Commercial development on the east side of the reservoir is limited to resorts north of Pine Point. They have camping services, but gasoline is not available.

• **VALLECITO CAMPGROUND** \$ C P Z * t \

Traveling along the western side of the reservoir on County Rd. 501, you pass through the community of Vallecito. Turn north on County Rd. 500 and go about 3 miles. The campground is large, very popular, and adjacent to the Weminuche Wilderness. Its 80 campsites in four loops are shaded, and most sites are large and fairly level. Those near the creek fill up quickly. Fishing in Vallecito Creek within the Wilderness is restricted to artificial flies and lures. Seven fee picnic sites are along the creek. Parking for the Vallecito Creek Trail, a major access point for the Weminuche Wilderness (no mountain bikes or motorized vehicles allowed), is at the campground entrance. Hitching posts and an unloading dock are available for livestock at the trailhead, but overnight horse camping is not allowed.

• **MIDDLE MOUNTAIN CAMPGROUND** \$ C Z *

Following County Road 501 around the north end of the lake, then south for about three miles will take you to Middle Mountain Campground, which has 24 sites with southern exposure and easy access to the water. Some shade is provided by ponderosa pines and small aspen. A few sites accommodate large RVs. Middle Mountain Road (Forest Rd. 724) leads to the old mining town of Tuckerville at the edge of the Weminuche Wilderness, where bicycles and motor vehicles are not allowed.

• **PINE RIVER CAMPGROUND** \$ C \ t

Four miles beyond Middle Mountain Campground, at the end of Forest Rd. 602, is the Pine River Campground, at the Pine River Trailhead. This primitive campground has a parking area with hitching posts and a turn-around parking area for trailers, but no corral. There is no potable water. All 6 campsites have views up the Pine River Valley. Private land is adjacent, with no public access to the river until three miles up the trail. Campsites accommodate only tents or small RVs. The Pine River Trail crosses private land for 3 miles before reaching the Weminuche Wilderness. Respect private property, and leave gates as you find them. The trail is very popular with horseback riders and follows the Pine River for 6 miles to intersect with the Lake Creek Trail, which leads steeply uphill to Emerald Lake. Mountain bicycles and motorized vehicles are not allowed in the Wilderness Area.